

In Support of Connecticut Senate Bill 257

March 12, 2015

Position: PhRMA supports Connecticut SB 257, a bill which amends the advanced practice nurse reporting law. These amendments will align the law with the federal Physician Payment Sunshine Act.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) represents the country's leading innovative biopharmaceutical research and biotechnology companies, which are devoted to discovering and developing medicines that enable patients to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. In 2013, biopharmaceutical companies invested more than \$51.1 billion in the discovery and development of medicines.

In 2014, the state passed legislation requiring biopharmaceutical manufacturers to report information about interactions with advanced practice nurses, similar to what the US Department of Health and Human Services requires at a national level for physicians. However, the original law did not directly align with the federal reporting requirement.

SB 257 amends current law to follow an annual reporting structure given that the federal report is also an annual report and company systems will be best prepared to report at this frequency. Because Connecticut is asking to track interactions with a health provider that is not part of the reporting under the federal Physician Payment Act, and that is newly recognized to practice individually in Connecticut, biopharmaceutical companies will need time to build their systems to collect this information. Therefore, at this time, PhRMA believes that a July 1, 2017 is a more reasonable date for submitting the first report. PhRMA also appreciates the Department publishing a list of practicing advanced practice nurses on its website each year by December 1. This is critical given this is a new category of independent practitioner that companies may not have information on the nurse's updated provider status.

These amendments will help companies greatly in their compliance with the advance practice nurse reporting law, and PhRMA asks legislators to support SB 257.